

House Republican Press Release

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Glastonbury Students Take Part In Year of Languages Event at State Capitol



HARTFORD- State Representative Sonya “Sonny” Googins (R-Glastonbury) was joined today at the State Capitol by many students from Glastonbury who were participating in the Year of Languages event, highlighting the importance of continuing studies of other languages for life, work, and participating as a global citizen.



The event follows the passage of the U.S. Senate’s Resolution 28, which proclaimed 2005 as the national Year of Languages. Governor M. Jodi Rell has proclaimed 2005 as the Year of languages in the state of Connecticut, highlighting the importance of learning and using languages other than English in today’s world.

Students from Stonington and Ledyard joined the Glastonbury students at the Capitol. They gave short speeches about why they have chosen to study languages, and the Mystic Middle select Choir performed music in languages from around the world. Googins introduced the two hundred students to the House of Representatives as “the ambassadors of tomorrow.”

Following a meeting with legislators, the students participated in a “Language Ambush” by approaching people in the Legislative office Building and asking for information in French, Spanish, German, and Russian, gauging responses according to the random language skills they encounter. This activity is being staged statewide to highlight the need for Americans to become multilingual.

“I take great pride in Glastonbury’s exceptional language program and I am equally proud of the Glastonbury students who participated in today’s Year of Languages event,” said **Representative Googins**. “In an increasingly global world, where the natural and

technological borders between cultures continue to blur, it is critical that Americans begin at an early age to develop language skills beyond English. It is essential for their success as citizens, and America's success as a nation."